

Amendments To The Claims:

1. – 15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A method for transmitting messages in a network via data terminals connected thereto, comprising:

sending a message to be relayed from a sender data terminal to an assigned a first mail processing device assigned to the sender data terminal;

assigning a unique identifier to the message that indicates that a message to be relayed is on the sender data terminal, or in the first mail processing device, or in a second mail processing device assigned to a recipient address data terminal, wherein the identifier comprises a plurality of subidentifiers, each of which is assigned to at least one message element contained in a relayed message;

sending a test message including the subidentifiers from the first mail processing device to the second mail processing device;

evaluating in the second mail processing device the test message identifier sent by the first mail processing device, the evaluating configured to process each subidentifier in the test message relative to data present in the second mail processing device indicative of respective message elements previously relayed to the recipient address data terminal; based on data present therein concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past; and

sending an evaluation-result message from the second mail processing device to the first mail processing device, said evaluation-result message indicating to the first mail processing device to transmit message elements, evaluated as not previously relayed to the recipient address data terminal, to the second mail processing device, and further indicating to block message elements, evaluated as previously relayed to the recipient address data terminal, from being transmitted to the second mail processing device;

triggering transmitting or blocking the a transmission of the respective ones of the message elements or parts thereof to the second mail processing device in response to the evaluation-result message; and

relaying to the recipient address data terminal respective message elements transmitted from the first mail processing device to the second mail processing device address data terminal in response to the evaluation result.

17-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein the identifier is evaluated on a mail server in the network.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein a notification of the blocked transmission is forwarded to the sender and/or recipient if the transmission is blocked on the basis of the evaluation results.

24. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein the identifier and/or the relevant subidentifier indicates the date and time of creation of the original message where these differ from the time of transmission, and/or an e-mail address of an original sender if this differs from the e-mail address of the sender, and/or the contents of the message or of the respective message element.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~47~~16, wherein there is a data terminal for executing the method and having a mail processing device that is designed such that an identifier for the message based on data present concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past is evaluated in an evaluation unit, and such that, based on the evaluation result, transmission of a message to the address data terminal is triggered or blocked.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the mail-processing device forms part of a mail server, which is integrated in the data terminal.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein a memory unit for storing data concerning the entry of messages at a different data terminal.

28. (currently amended) A network, comprising:

a sending module configured to send a message to be relayed from a sender data terminal to a first mail processing device assigned to the sender data terminal;

an assigning module configured to assign a unique identifier to the message that indicates that a message to be relayed is on the sender data terminal, in the first mail processing device, or in a second mail processing device assigned to a recipient address data terminal, wherein the identifier comprises a plurality of subidentifiers, each of which is assigned to at least one message element contained in a relayed message;

a test message sensing module configured to send a test message including the subidentifiers from the first mail processing device to the second mail processing device;

an evaluator configured to evaluate in the second mail processing device the test message sent by the first mail processing device, the evaluating configured to process each subidentifier in the test message relative to data present in the second mail processing device indicative of respective message elements previously relayed to the recipient address data terminal;

a sending module configured to send an evaluation-result message from the second mail processing device to the first mail processing device, said evaluation-result message indicating to the first mail processing device to transmit message elements, evaluated as not previously relayed to the recipient address data terminal, to the second mail processing device, and further indicating to block message elements, evaluated as previously relayed to the recipient address data terminal, from being transmitted to the second mail processing device;

a module configured to transmit or to block a transmission of respective ones of the message elements to the second mail processing device in response to the evaluation-result message; and

a module configured to relay to the recipient address data terminal respective message elements transmitted from the first mail processing device to the second mail processing device.

~~A method comprising;~~

~~—— sending a message to be relayed from a sender data terminal to an assigned first mail processing device;~~

~~—— assigning a unique identifier to the message that indicates that a message to be relayed is on the sender data terminal or in the first mail processing device;~~

~~—— relaying the identifier to a second mail processing device that is assigned to an address data terminal for the message to be forwarded;~~

~~evaluating the identifier by the first mail processing device based on data present therein concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past;~~
~~triggering or blocking the transmission of the message or parts thereof to the address data terminal in response to the evaluation result; and~~
~~a mail processing device that is designed such that an identifier for a message is evaluated in an evaluation unit based on data present concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past, and based on the evaluation result, transmission of a message to the address data terminal is triggered or blocked.~~

29. (currently amended) The network according to claim 29~~28~~, wherein at least one of the mail-processing devices forms part of a mail server.

30. (currently amended) The network according to claim 29, wherein further comprising a memory unit for storing previously relayed message elements ~~data concerning the entry of messages at connected data terminals.~~